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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/960,344      | 09/24/2001  | Tamae Hashimoto      | Q66385              | 4620             |

7590 02/09/2005

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20037-3202

EXAMINER

PARTON, KEVIN S

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

2153

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/960,344

Applicant(s)

HASHIMOTO, TAMAE

Examiner

Kevin Parton

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                                                 | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                                             | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/2, 10/17</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                                                |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615).

3. Regarding claim 1, Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615) teach a document transmission system comprising:

- a. A document data transmission section for producing document data (figure 1, elements 36, 38).
- b. A transmittal letter production section for producing a transmittal letter to be attached to the document data (column 20, lines 28-30).
- c. A transmission section for electronically transmitting the document data with the transmittal letter attached (figure 1, element 42).
- d. An additional information storage section in which a plurality of pieces of additional information which can be attached to the transmittal letter are stored (figure 1, element 28; column 21, lines 21-22).
- e. An operation section for selecting an arbitrary one of the pieces of additional information from within said additional information storage section (column 21, lines 24-32).

- f. The transmittal letter production section producing a transmittal letter in which the additional information selected by said operation section is inserted (column 21, lines 24-45).

4. Regarding claims 2 and 6, Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615) teach all the limitations as applied to claims 1 and 5, respectively. They further teach means wherein the operation section includes a display section for displaying the additional information stored in said additional information storage section, and a selection input section for arbitrarily selecting the additional information displayed on said display section (column 21, lines 24-45).

5. Regarding claim 4, Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615) teach all the limitations as applied to claim 1. They further teach additional information registration means for additionally storing new additional information into the additional information storage section (column 20, lines 61-67).

6. Regarding claim 5, Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615) teach a document transmission system including:

- a. A document data transmission section for producing document data (figure 1, elements 36, 38), a transmittal letter production section for producing a transmittal letter to be attached to the document data (column 20, lines 28-30), and a transmission section for electronically transmitting the document data with the transmittal letter attached is stored (figure 1, element 42), the program causing said document transmission apparatus to have:

- b. An additional information selection function of selecting, from within an additional information storage section in which a plurality of pieces of additional information which can be attached to the transmittal letter are stored, an arbitrary one of the pieces of additional information (column 21, lines 24-32).
- c. An additional information insertion function of inserting the selected arbitrary one of the pieces of additional information into the transmittal letter produced by said transmittal letter production section (column 21, lines 24-45).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615).

9. Regarding claim 3, Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615) teach all the limitations as applied to claim 2. They further teach means wherein the additional information storage section stores a title for each of the pieces of additional information and the display section displays at least the titles of the pieces of additional information as a list, and the selection input section designates one of the displayed titles to select the additional

information and the transmittal letter production section inserts a text of the selected additional information into the transmittal letter (column 21, lines 17-32).

Although the system disclosed by Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose specifically means wherein a registration number is stored and displayed for each piece of additional information.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615).

A person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615) by utilizing registration numbers to identify additional information in addition to titles. This is well known in the art and benefits the system by allowing two files to have the same name and different registration numbers thus allowing both to exist and be displayed. The assignment of random number to data entries is often applied in database development to ensure distinct primary keys.

10. Regarding claim 7, Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615) teach all the limitations as applied to claim 5. They further teach an additional storage function of storing a title and a text of each of the pieces of additional information into an additional information storage section and the display function displays at least the titles of the pieces of additional information stored in the additional information storage section as a list, and the selection function designates one of the displayed titles to select the additional

information and the transmittal letter insertion function inserts the text of the selected additional information into the transmittal letter (column 21, lines 17-32).

Although the system disclosed by Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615) shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to disclose specifically means wherein a registration number is stored and displayed for each piece of additional information.

Nonetheless, these features are well known in the art and it would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615).

A person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of modifying the system of Reifman et al. (USPN 5,917,615) by utilizing registration numbers to identify additional information in addition to titles. This is well known in the art and benefits the system by allowing two files to have the same name and different registration numbers thus allowing both to exist and be displayed. The assignment of random number to data entries is often applied in database development to ensure distinct primary keys.

### ***Conclusion***

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please see the following:

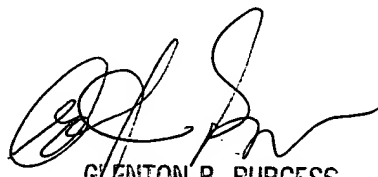
- a. Johnson et al. (USPN 5,282,052)
- b. Cooper et al. (USPN 5,465,167)

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenton Burgess can be reached on (571)272-3949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kevin Parton  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2153

ksp



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